

Message Text

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73

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5509

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ELTN, CA

SUBJECT: WILDCAT STRIKE PARALYZES CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PASS AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, DOT, ICC

1. FIVE-DAY-OLD ILLEGAL STRIKE BY SOME 2,000 MEMBERS OF BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS, REPRESENTING TWO-THIRDS OF ENGINEERS EMPLOYED BY CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS, HAS CURTAILED ITS PASSENGER AND FREIGHT SERVICES BY 75 PERCENT AFFECTING COMMUTER AND LONG DISTANCE TRAFFIC. CNR HAS LAID OFF ANOTHER 11,000 EMPLOYEES AND IS SUING ENGINEERS' UNION FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT. UNAUTHORIZED WORK STOPPAGE TRIGGERED BY ENGINEERS' INSISTANCE THAT 15 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE GRANTED TO ALL OTHER RAILROAD UNIONS ON JANUARY 1 (SEE A-640, DEC 11, 1974) BE GIVEN TO THEM AS WELL ALTHOUGH THEIR OLD CONTRACT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL MAY 1.

2. CNR AND UNION OFFICIALS MEETING TODAY IN HOPES OF SETTLING DISPUTE. COMPANY REPS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE EFFECTIVE DATE OF WAGE INCREASE BUT THUS FAR INSISTED THAT ENGINEERS RETURN TO WORK PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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